

The NCACDSS is comprised of all 100 Directors of Social Services for all 100 counties. Our membership works, individually and collectively, to help improve and protect the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. As is our mandate, we are dedicated to help prevent and relieve the suffering that results from poverty and its devastating effects.

Listed below are three issues we feel must be addressed, on both a State and National level, to help improve the lives of our aging and disabled population.

Issue #1:

Support and protect programs/benefits that help assure the health of older and disabled citizens.

- Assure the viability of the Medicaid program
- Maintain National funding of Medicaid.
- Prevent cuts in Medicaid that will reduce services.
- Assure the solvency of Medicare.
- Improve the coordination of care for dual eligibles.
- Address the gap in Medicare coverage of dental, vision, and hearing services.
- Assure affordable prescription drugs.
- Establish parity in coverage of mental health care equal to that for physical health.
- Ensure the availability of mental health services.
- Ensure the availability of substance abuse services.
- Promote quality services and assure the quality of life of individuals residing in Adult Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Mental Health Group Homes.
- Promote programs that encourage physicians to accept more Medicaid/Medicare covered patients.

Issue #2:

Support and expand programs/services that help assure home based care and community services.

- Increase and improve social work services to the adult population by increasing SSBG funding.

- Protect Medicaid funding of At-Risk Case Management (social work services for adults).
- Support the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act including increased funding to assure home based care and community services.
- Support the reauthorization of present funding of TANF, which currently supports many grandparents caring for and raising their grandchildren.
- Expand the benefits of the Food Assistance Program.
- Promote programs that support family care givers.
- Assure adequate services of all types for the socially and economically needy.
- Support provision of assistive devices, home modifications, and personal assistance services through Medicare and Medicaid, including protection of the CAP-DA program.

Issue #3:

Support and protect programs/benefits that help assure the safety and well being of older and disabled citizens.

- Strengthen and enforce Federal law and policy that protects residents of nursing homes.
- Expand geriatric training of health care workers, including APS reporting laws.
- Address shortage of direct care workers.
- Assure adequate compensation to long term care facility providers – including the expanding of Medicaid funding in Adult Care Homes.
- Strengthen efforts to prevent crimes against older persons – including prosecution of elder abuse and exploitation.
- Expand opportunities for companionship to reduce isolation and loneliness.
- Strengthen protections against financial fraud, abuse, and exploitation.
- Assure the funding of and availability of guardianship and supportive services.
- Adequately fund the provision of APS including adequate staffing of Department of Social Services.